

**Puget Sound Partnership (WA)**  
EPA Region 10 - Seattle

**Geographic location or area of activity:** Puget Sound, Washington

**Description of activity:** The Puget Sound Partnership is a state agency created by the Washington State Legislature in 2007. The Partnership works collaboratively with all levels of government, tribes, businesses and citizen groups in its charge to lead and coordinate efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound by 2020.

The Partnership, which began work on July 1, 2007, is governed by a Leadership Council of independent citizens from around the Sound and is advised by an Ecosystem Coordination Board and a Science Panel. An Executive Director leads day-to-day operations and employs a professional staff including the former staff of the Puget Sound Action Team. As of Jan. 1, 2008, the regional salmon recovery functions performed by Shared Strategy for Puget Sound the responsibility of the Partnership

The Partnership is working with a vast array of people, groups, businesses and governments to create a long-term plan called the 2020 Action Agenda by September 2008. The Action Agenda will be informed by an independent Science Panel and it will cover the entire ecosystem affecting the Sound. The Action Agenda will:

- Identify and assign priorities to actions needed to get to a healthy Puget Sound by 2020.
- Name those responsible for the actions.
- Identify funding.

The Action Agenda will also hold all parties accountable for their actions by tracking progress and reporting the results publicly. In addition, the Partnership will launch an education effort to bring ordinary citizens, businesses and others up to speed on the Sound's health issues and to inspire them to action

Twelve federal agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Puget Sound Federal Caucus to the State Partnership. This group of federal agency staff and managers in Puget Sound are coordinating the work of the federal government and integrating it with the work of state agencies, tribes, local governments and others through the Partnership.

In addition, three federal representatives on the Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board will work through the federal caucus to assure that all the agencies involved have input to the ECB.

A report prepared on behalf of the Puget Sound Partnership last year estimated that about \$116 million/year is spent by federal agencies for the restoration and protection of Puget Sound.

**Interagency partners:** Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, Army Corp of Engineers, US Navy, US Army (Fort Lewis), Coast Guard, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), Federal

Highway Administration. The list of all the state and tribal agencies is long. It includes primarily the WA Dept of Ecology, the WA Department of Ecology, WA Dept of Natural Resources, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, WA Dept of Transportation, Nisqually Tribe, Lummi Tribe and Nooksack Tribes



MOU signing ceremony

**Local partners:** All counties and cities in the Puget Sound, People for Puget Sound, Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties and many others.

**Activity URL:** [http://www.psp.wa.gov/about\\_us.htm](http://www.psp.wa.gov/about_us.htm)